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OPERATIONS COORDINATING BOARD  
Washington 25, D.C.

April 17, 1956

MEMORANDUM OF MEETING: Working Group - Committee on Broadcasting and  
Television (COBAT)

12th Meeting held 2 p.m. April 16, 1956  
OCB Conference Room

WORKING GROUP MEMBERS PRESENT:

USIA - Robert E. Button, Chairman  
ICA - Gerald Winfield  
CIA - Representative  
OCB - Ralph R. Busick  
Marjorie Denny

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1. The minutes of the April 3rd meeting were approved.

2. With reference to the priority project of a broadcasting station for Libya, the Chairman reported that staff papers from TPIB (supplying technical details) and USIA (on audience distribution) were being sent to ICA; recommendations for a Board action await further ICA staffing with its Libyan director.

3. The Committee agreed to request the OCB to conduct a survey of Eurovision from both a facilities and a programming point of view. At the Chairman's request, the Staff Representative agreed to prepare a draft paper to the Board Assistants for the next meeting, pointing out the importance of working with - and within - Eurovision as a means of encouraging European integration.

4. The Staff Representative reported that a file of papers on possible candidates for audio-visual positions abroad had been supplied by the Defense member; these papers had been requested by the ICA personnel office, which had retained several for consideration; the remainder had been returned to OCB where the central file would be kept available.

5. The ICA representative, who had just returned from an extensive field trip in Latin America, reported on the stage of development of TV in the various countries he had visited.

6. With reference to the Beirut project, the ICA representative reported that the TV budget had been passed but the necessary transfer of funds from one ministry to another not yet accomplished; ICA and USIA were holding further discussions on the situation in Beirut.

7. The Chairman reported as of interest to the Committee the possibility of live transatlantic television this year, using French terminal equipment.

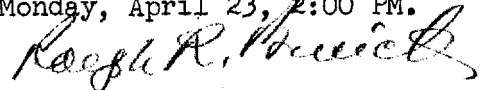
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8. A discussion was held on the importance of radio as a tactical weapon in the Middle East; the desirability of building up friendly working relations with national broadcasting authorities, especially in the Baghdad Pact areas, was stressed.

9. A Joint meeting will be held with TPIB, on Thursday, April 19, 10 AM. The next regular meeting of COBAT will be held Monday, April 23, 2:00 PM.



Ralph R. Busick  
Staff Representative

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